

Pierce City Receives \$11,212 Grant for Early Storm Warning Siren

Jerry Finley, Rural Development Manager, USDA Rural Development, presented a Mock Check in the amount of \$11,212 to Pierce City during a celebration on November 16, 2004, held at the new City Hall which is presently under construction. Grant funds were targeted to purchase an early warning storm siren benefiting 1,382 residents and businesses in the Pierce City area.

Finley said, "An early warning storm siren is one of the first precautionary measures a community can utilize for the protection of their citizens. The addition of this siren will ensure full coverage that was non-existent after the City lost the downtown area siren in the May, 2003, tornado. Rural Development is proud to be a partner in the tornado recovery efforts of Pierce City".

Mayor Mark Peters expressed his appreciation, "Pierce City's new storm siren—which is now installed courtesy of USDA Rural Development—will expand the reach of our early warning capacities. Although sited in the center of our downtown, which is currently rebuilding from the disastrous tornado of May 4, 2003, our new siren's reach exceeds each of the City's edges, north, south, east and west, and allows our adjoining rural areas a measure of forewarning as well. So it's easy to see that it's not just our little town, but indeed our entire community that has good reason to thank the USDA Rural Development folks for the help they've worked at getting us".

Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development said, "U.S. Senators "Kit" Bond and Jim Talent and U.S. Representative Roy Blunt have been, and continue to be, strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians by making available federal funds for these kinds of rural projects. This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development's mission and President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities."

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development program may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Vickie Umfleet, Rural Development Specialist, at 688 S State Highway B, Suite 400, Springfield MO, 65802 or by calling (417) 831-5246 extension 5 or by email to vickie.umfleet@mo.usda.gov.



(left to right): Pam Volkl, Community Development Technician; Mark Peters, Mayor; Stacy Burks, Senator Bond's Representative; Jo Allen, Alderwoman; Steve McIntosh, Congressman Blunt's Representative; Nathan Correll, Senator Talent's Representative; Greg Bramwell, Community Development Specialist; and Jerry Finley, Rural Development Manager.

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

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